

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 19, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Testimony**

MS. DUQUETTE: Good morning, Dr. Starr, Members of the Board.

I'm Diane Duquette, Director of Libraries for Kern County; and I wanted to thank you for your deliberations last time. I know you have very difficult decisions to make today.

A century is a long time for a community to wait for a real library in Frazier Park. The need there, we have a booming population, growth of nearly 300 percent; geographic isolation in a mountainous terrain. Rural, we're one of the most rural projects on this list, 62 miles from the nearest city. We have a seriously overcrowded condition, non-handicapped accessible, whose services and resources are very limited. We have no public restrooms, no computer homework center, no training lab. No expansion is possible in this postage-stamp sized library.

We have a tenuous lease with no place to go in the community. We're not asking much for Frazier Park. Funding the new Frazier Park Branch will allow the Board to feel good, that you spread excellent library service throughout the state, even to remote regions like Frazier Park. It will also give you the opportunity to fund an

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excellent library that will be the catalyst for rural revitalization and enhance the quality of life.

Please consider funding Frazier Park Branch. It's the right thing to do.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Ms. Duquette.

MR. PRICE: Good afternoon, Chairman Starr, members of the Committee. I am Harry Price, the Vice Mayor to the City of Fairfield, President of the North Bay Division of the League of California Cities; a retired public high school English teacher of 38 years. And I'm here today to talk to you about the Fairfield Cordelia Library, in the City of Fairfield. It's the western end of Fairfield, at the confluence of Interstate 80 and Interstate 680.

This area in Northern California is the most heavily traveled on Interstate 80 that runs from San Francisco to the Nevada border.

The area is experiencing more than a 900 percent population increase between the years 1980 and 2020.

This project is a Priority 1, according to your recommendation. That are five public schools that will be

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served by this library, not including one community college, the Solano Community College.

There are 4,200 students who will have access to this library. Many of them will be within walking distance.

The Fairfield/Cordelia project is a high priority for all residents in Solano County, as well as those folks who live in southern Napa County. In fact, there are five apprenticeship training programs that are now being conducted by the Napa/Solano Trade Council.

28.4 percent of the people who live in this area are under the age of 17, and they will be served by this library. The service area is unique for a variety of reasons. One of them, it is both urban, as well as rural. And the children who will be able to use this facility will have a remarkable opportunity because this project is a joint use project between the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield/Suisun Unified School District.

It is contiguous to the Solano County Office of Education. It is connected with two public transit systems that will serve this area and will provide transportation for those who are in desperate need.

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As a former high school English teacher, I can assure you the desire for literacy continues, and particularly in an area that is growing as rapidly as our area is. Depending upon the time of day, current residents may spend 45 minutes in traffic in an attempt to travel by automobile into the main library in Fairfield.

The proposed library will be a joint-use venture; and the technology that will be provided for those people who choose to use it will be first-rate. Part of this building will also be used by the County Office of Education, as well as the City of Fairfield. So it becomes a seven-eleven, seven o'clock a.m. to about 11:00 p.m. And we are confident that the 4.1 million dollars of this grant request will be used very wisely.

We've leveraged our resources. We've brought together all of the stakeholders in an unprecedented move to create a library that embodies all of the principles of smart growth.

It's a library whose time is now, not later. Please give us your very best consideration.

Thank you very much. And happy holidays.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Vice Mayor.

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MR. BUCKLEY: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Board Members. I'm Jim Buckley, City Librarian of Torrance. And I'd like to speak to our grant application, Project 1017, the North Torrance Library.

Just a little bit about the library. It currently has 4,200 square feet; serves 33,000 people. Our grant application is for 3.6 million. And it would allow us to build a new building with 8,000 square feet.

The collection has grown from 18,000 books to 48,000 books over the years, and we've also added audiovisual materials. The service population is very diverse, and includes 29 percent Asian, 20 percent Hispanic, 5 percent African-American, 5 percent other various cultures.

English is a second language for approximately 14 percent of the students. Primary languages include Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, and 16 other languages. Only 19 percent of the population has fluency in English.

The library serves more schools and students than any other section of the city. There are 6,200

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K-through-12 public school students in the area. One high school, two middle schools and four elementary schools. Also, there are two private schools, six preschools, and four home-school agencies. And all of these are within walking distance of the library.

After school, you can imagine this creates quite a crowd. We sometimes get 100 students at one time in the library, and many of those are seated on the floor of the library.

The school -- I'm just worried about the school district. Now, the school libraries are outdated, with some science and textbooks as old as 15 years. In fact, the public library has tried to assist them by discarding our old encyclopedias. But even at that time, those encyclopedias are six years old.

The only professional librarians in the school district are in the four high schools; and those are limited -- the school libraries have limited hours.

Elementary schools are staffed by PTA volunteers. Students learn library skills at the public library. We've also incorporated a homework center in the plans for the North Torrance Library, and the meeting room within that

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building has been computer-wired to allow computer classes for adults, as well as students.

Our requested grant of 3.6 million will allow you to fund other libraries, as well as ours. And we hope that you will certainly consider us with our application.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Buckley. It's a pleasure to hear from such a distinguished and respected member of the library profession.

MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Angelides?

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Just a point of order. Given the magnitude of people who are going to testify, if we could ask -- and you are the Chairman -- if we ask people to try to keep it to a couple minutes. I just want to remind everyone, we actually have gotten write-ups on the all the projects, and it's important for us to hear some of the salient points, but just a lot of the details of the projects are in our binders. So just looking at the size of the line.

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MR. BOZAJIAN: Good afternoon, I'm James Bozajian and I'm the Mayor Pro Tem from the City of Calabasas. I'm also a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County. And I'm here with a very spirited and energetic group of Calabasas citizens and community members, including Donald Duckworth, our City Manager; Susan Feller, the President of our Calabasas Library Commission; Fred Gaines, member and past president of the Calabasas Library Commission and a member of the Library California Board; Charlotte Meyer, Chairwoman of the Calabasas Education Commission and the past president of the Los Virgenes Board of Education; Ellen Pangarliotas, member and past president of the Calabasas Library Commission and past president of the Parks and Recreation Commission; Don Zimring, the deputy superintendent of the Los Virgenes Unified School District; and Matthew Hayden, our project coordinator with the City of Calabasas, a couple of whom will be speaking after me.

I'll keep my comments brief. Calabasas submitted the only library grant application that was rated "outstanding" but was not funded at your December 2nd meeting.

Of the 61 applications received, only 14 were rated outstanding. Calabasas's application should therefore be

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at the top of the list for funding because all the remaining applications were rated in the second or third categories.

I wish to remind the Board of the merits of Calabasas's application and the attributes -- the key attributes that helped us earn the "outstanding" classification through your staff's review.

Calabasas did not have an existing permanently-located city-owned library facility. And not having an existing library is the highest-rated category for the age and condition of existing Library Bond Act factors.

We have had five facilities which have served as our temporary library location in the last four years, and that includes the entire time we've had the municipal library in existence.

Since incorporation, we went from a 400-square foot facility, to what is now a 12,000 square foot facility. Our well-planned 22,575 square foot new the building has been programmed to meet the community's library needs for many decades to come.

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Finally, I want to state that the Calabasas Public Library will be located at our new Calabasas Civic Center. The Calabasas Civic Center represents a last phase of the Calabasas Parks Center Master Plan. This well-planned mixed-use development, with a vision to give our city a pedestrian-friendly, downtown suburban core. It includes what is already there as a retail shopping center, a hotel, office buildings; and it's also adjacent to other residential areas, commercial areas in our historic district, Old Town Calabasas.

This has been a ten-year-plus process that we've built out the Calabasas Park Center. And I will conclude in remarking that the Calabasas Civic Center and public library, as a focus of our cultural and governmental life and community, will serve as the heart of our city.

And I'd like to introduce Charlotte Meyer at this time.

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Vice Mayor, will you stay for a second, please?

What you've rehearsed in very brief detail -- and thank you for your brevity and conciseness -- is why Calabasas received the "outstanding" evaluation.

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And I have personally made every inquiry to find out why it did not get first priority, in terms of the K through 12 connection that is demanded by this bond issue. And we could find no evidence of -- Ms. Springer, would you just review that? Because I think the Vice Mayor deserves to know that we have not taken lightly the "outstanding" application his city has committed to us.

MS. SPRINGER: No, we looked through the application again and didn't find either "yea" or "nay" for joint-use efforts.

What I do understand, though, is that there is a reluctance on the part of the school to participate in a 20-year commitment.

CHAIR STARR: Well, be that as it may, I just want to explain to the Vice Mayor why, because he brought up the "outstanding," that it was the only "outstanding." And that's because of the second priority aspect of it --

MS. SPRINGER: Right.

CHAIR STARR: -- that it received.

Now, if we could --

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MR. BOZAJIAN: Yes, we have some subsequent speakers, sir, that will be addressing that. I wanted to be brief because I knew that they were going to --

CHAIR STARR: Well, I appreciate that. But I just wanted to pay you the courtesy, as the Vice Mayor, to see where we were coming from in evaluating that.

MR. BOZAJIAN: I think Donald Zimring, in light of your comments and follow-up, will be the next speaker.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MR. ZIMRING: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you very much for this honor and in speaking tonight. My name is Donald Zimring. I'm the Deputy Superintendent of Schools to the Las Virgenes School District. I'm a 20-year employee of the district and began as a teacher. I am a teacher by trade. And I have to tell the librarians -- even though they're vexed by the fact that I drove our librarians crazy because of the importance of libraries in our community.

Our school district is here to give us full support and commitment, and hopefully explain that we think we may have miscommunicated an aspect of this grant.

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Our school district was formed long before the cities in our region came into being. Our district goes back to 1963. We are a joint unified school district covering over 89 square miles, much of it rural. Our district has always had a firm commitment while working with each of its member cities. A joint use agreement is really our standard operating procedure on a day-in-and-day-out basis, in the absence of anything formal written.

Our school district cooperates on a weekly basis, on a monthly basis, on a daily basis, with each of our cities; but in particular, Calabasas has served as a model for all four of our cities.

The district is actively involved in programs intertwining both our agencies. It has a firm commitment to public policy in our community that that be the standard course of action.

Our district currently works cooperatively on a daily basis with homework centers and remedial work funded by the city, operated on our school campuses. We have existing agreements in virtually every other expect.

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When the district was approached on this, the question may have hinged on miscommunication, may have come from the idea of a 20-year financial commitment.

In terms of commitment of services, in terms of the commitment of cooperation, sharing of materials, working together on a program, that has never been an issue. That goes on day in and day out within our community.

CHAIR STARR: But the reluctance to make such an agreement kept Calabasas from first priority.

MR. ZIMRING: Mr. Chairman, as I explained to Senator Alpert, and having the honor of serving on the State Master Plan Committee -- and I applaud that committee because it talked of the critical nature of intertwining agencies, such as libraries and schools --

I stand before you today to tell you that that is not a problem. The district is fully prepared to enter into an agreement with the city on a 20-year basis.

CHAIR STARR: Well, we look forward to that process occurring. It did not occur as of this application.

MR. ZIMRING: In terms of the formal process, you're absolutely right, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIR STARR: The formal process is all that we can judge.

MR. ZIMRING: And in terms of certainly our intent in what has been described in the application, please understand that that has been ongoing and certainly probably far more than most other regions.

CHAIR STARR: All right, I understand what you're meaning to say, sir, your commitment; and I applaud that. I'm just talking about the lack that we had of a formal agreement that would enable us to give Priority 1.

MR. ZIMRING: I understand that.

CHAIR STARR: And that does not in any way question your intentions or what will happen.

MR. ZIMRING: And as I say, with that being the only miss as being an outstanding application, our school district gives us full commitment to this committee and to this intent, and it certainly hopes that you will find that and accept this testimony accordingly.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

Yes?

How many more from Calabasas? Just one more?

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And will you be adding anything different?

MR. GAINES: Absolutely.

MS. MEYER: Me, too.

CHAIR STARR: If you're adding something different, we will hear you, please.

MR. GAINES: Mr. Chairman and Members, my name is Fred Gaines. I'm a member of the Calabasas Library Commission.

Why was Calabasas not a first priority? Let me tell you why it was not a first priority; and it's not the reasons that you've heard here. I don't know where --

CHAIR STARR: Wait a minute, sir. Wait, sir. Not the reason we heard from the superintendent?

MR. GAINES: No, not the reason we heard from the library staff.

CHAIR STARR: Not the reason we've heard from the library staff?

MR. GAINES: Correct. So let me tell you why. There is a --

CHAIR STARR: The Library staff made the evaluation.

MR. GAINES: I understand. But what she said was that there was reluctance -- that the reason was, there was a reluctance on someone's part to enter into an agreement.

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CHAIR STARR: That we could find no agreement.

MR. GAINES: Well, there is no agreement.

CHAIR STARR: Oh, as long as that point is established.

MR. GAINES: Am I wrong? Was the comment, there was a reluctance to enter into the agreement?

MS. SPRINGER: We had received a letter from --

MR. HALL: The city manager.

MS. SPRINGER: -- the city manager.

MEMBER PACHINO: I'm sorry, I think it's highly relevant that we hear this.

CHAIR STARR: Yes, sir.

MEMBER PACHINO: And I think we should give them the courtesy of presenting --

CHAIR STARR: We're going to. We're going to.

Sir, we're going to give them that. And I don't need to be put in the position that I'm not going to give it to them. But when something is ascribed to my staff, we have to clarify that before we move forward. So if you would please extend me that courtesy.

Go ahead, Mr. Gaines.

MR. GAINES: Thank you very much.

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This process was set forth after the regulations were put together. This is the printout that was handed out at the various meetings which, of course, we attended all of them. It talks about how you get to an application. You do a library-needs assessment, which we did in our community, which set forth the specific needs. You go and put a plan of service together. You then come up with a building program, and then do your site selection architecture. This is the process you follow to become an "outstanding" application, which is exactly what Calabasas did. And that's why we have an "outstanding" application.

Then the Bond Act talks about review factors, again, a handout that's given out comes directly from the code; and it talks about the criteria: Do you meet the criteria?

Have you ever had library building? The City of Calabasas has never had a permanent library building. Are we meeting the needs of the residents? Have you gone through -- that's why we have an "outstanding" application.

So then there is this issue of the priority. And the priority, of course, could be a co-located priority or it can be as a result of programs within the schools. It was

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made absolutely clear during the process, including in e-mails and minutes of meetings that were put out from the various meetings through the regulatory process and through the application process, that a second priority -- that second priority can be funded, and it would be first priority if it better -- if it follows this process -- if it better meets the needs of the individual area and if it meets the factors involved. That's why we had an "outstanding" and why we had a second-priority in this case.

Because what we're talking about in this particular case is the ultimate of form over substance. And here's why I say that: Because we followed the procedures, we rated "outstanding" on the criteria that are in the regulations and in the state code, that were part of the Bond Act. In a city that already, today, fully funds on its own a shuttle service from all four elementary schools to our library, every school day; a homework and tutoring center after school, where high school students are trained to come in and tutor middle school and all elementary school students; a program where our librarian goes to each and every kindergarten and first-grade class, introduces

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the library, sends home a library card, has those students come with their parents to the library, to get their library card and to get a little prize. To introduce them to the library at that age.

High school programs dealing with research, working on research skills. This is in the city municipal library.

Our collection, we were fortunate enough to be able to develop a collection just in the last few years, when we split from the county library system. That collection was bought using the materials list directly from the school district. So we were matching the school district materials that were needed for the various projects to our collection.

Book clubs at the elementary and middle school level. And summer programs, summer reading and study programs that go throughout the year.

Any of those projects, with the piece of paper that says "You have an MOU with the city," would have made us a first-priority "outstanding"; and from what we're told, would have been funded at the last meeting. But because the city already does that, at its own expense, in coordination with the school district, we're being told,

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"Well, you're second priority. You're out." That is the difference that has occurred here.

CHAIR STARR: I understand.

MR. GAINES: That is the difference.

So what you're establishing --

CHAIR STARR: I'm not recognizing anyone. Let Mr. Gaines finish, please.

MR. GAINES: What you're establishing with this project is that if the city has already established that it's going to provide all of these services in school joint use, has successful programs in place -- not a promise or a piece of paper that "We're going to do it. We're going to develop it," but already doing it, and committing to doing it -- to continue to doing it, at their own expense, separate from the school district, that "You're second priority and you're out," regardless of the "outstanding" application, regardless of meeting these factors. And I think that would be a wrong choice. When you make a priority -- and all the regs say is there's a priority, it doesn't say what that priority means. What its meaning by the potential action here is, if you're second priority, forget it.

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What "priority" means is if you were to fund, for example, all the "outstanding" applications, what you would have -- what you would end up funding is 11 "outstanding" Priority 1's and one "outstanding" Priority 2. So you'd be giving 92 percent of the funding to the priority level and eight percent to the second priority.

Now, does that establish a priority? Absolutely, it establishes a priority.

Does that establish a policy that you want to follow, that we want these things to be party, but in an area where these programs already exist? We're going to do that? Yes.

Let me -- if I can, two more minutes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR STARR: Please, Mr. Gaines.

MR. GAINES: And I don't criticize any of the applicants you've funded. They're excellent applications, deserving, as are many of the others -- as are virtually all, if not many of the applications you have left. But look at what you've funded as "outstanding" first priority.

In Rancho Cucamonga they have a joint use because they have a piece of paper that says they're going to do a

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homework center. And that's good. But in that particular case, there is the sole responsibility for staffing and operation lies with the city, the school district's providing no funds, there's no partnership. This is -- I'm quoting from the sheet that you have in front of you on that particular project. And the only thing the school district is doing is they're providing a set of textbooks to the libraries, so the people coming in to do the homework make have all the school textbooks there.

That's fine; but that, with a piece of paper that they had an MOU, made them a first priority; they're funded.

In a city where we do that, plus seven other programs with the school, self-funded already in place, we don't --

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Gaines?

MR. GAINES: -- we are a second priority, and not only skipped over in the "outstanding" --

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Gaines?

MR. GAINES: -- but now we're going into the "very good's" without having that.

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CHAIR STARR: Mr. Gaines, you make your point very eloquently. And I'd like to bring the superintendent, who was here a minute ago, would he come back?

Given this commitment, Mr. Superintendent, that Mr. Gaines has discussed, why was not -- and Mr. Gaines describes it rather haphazardly as a piece of paper; this is a piece of paper which every other first priority provided -- why did not your district enter into the required agreement with Calabasas?

MR. ZIMRING: Mr. Chairman, with due respect, my boss probably wouldn't like the fact that you elevated me to superintendent.

CHAIR STARR: Well, assistant superintendent.

Why count the district?

MR. ZIMRING: Mr. Chairman, with due respect, we do it day in and day out, as I said. We did not see this as a criteria, even from the application since we're already doing it, and continue to do it.

CHAIR STARR: I guess that's the argument that Mr. Gaines has made very eloquently. But every other constituency, whether they were doing it or not, did provide the certification required in the statute --

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let me finish, sir.

Yes -- they did, didn't they? And Calabasas did not? However, it is to be interpreted, Mr. Gaines, Calabasas did not. That's all I wanted to establish is that point, that Calabasas did not establish, did not provide the certification, the piece of paper.

MR. GAINES: But it's not required.

MR. ZIMRING: Mr. Chairman, if I may.

CHAIR STARR: Yes.

MR. ZIMRING: On this particular issue, you're absolutely correct, there is not a piece of paper, because it was our understanding it was not a criteria or requirement to be successful.

May I say, sir, that I think what sets us apart is this is part of our modus operandi, and will continue to be so.

CHAIR STARR: I think you've made your case. Thank you. I just wanted to clarify it.

Mr. Gaines, you've made your case very eloquently.

And we have one more testimony. Mr. Angelides wants to speak.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: I'd just like to ask a question.

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CHAIR STARR: Please.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Well, actually, of the staff -- and thank you very much for your comments, Fred. Thank you.

The regulations, do they specify a joint-use agreement requirement as part of the priority?

What do the regs say?

MS. SPRINGER: The Act actually is what specifies that.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: So the statute actually specifies a -- what's the terminology?

MR. HALL: "First priority shall be given to joint-use projects in which the agency that operates the library and one or more school districts have a cooperative agreement."

MEMBER ANGELIDES: "A cooperative agreement"?

And then how have we picked that up in the regs?

MR. HALL: We specified in the appendices what the requirements of a cooperative agreement would be; and that that agreement is required to be submitted with the application.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: All right. And in this

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instance -- and I understand the frustration of form over substance; but in the context of 66-some applications, it would be hard to adjudicate what existing programs were, without the existence of a formal agreement.

And I'm just getting to whether, in fact, we did specify a formal agreement, recognizing, of course, that first priority doesn't mean in or out, there's still a policy choice available to the Board.

What does it say specifically?

MR. HALL: "As a minimum requirement" -- I'm sorry, "As required in Section 20440(d)(1), applicants with joint-use projects shall submit a copy of the cooperative agreement between the public library and the school library districts, that include the following elements," and then it specifies all of the elements.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Can you read that phrase one more time? I'm sorry.

MR. HALL: Sure. "As required in Section 20440(d)(1).

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Hall, would you read it into the microphone, please?

MR. HALL: Certainly.

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"As required in Section 20440(d)(1), applicants with joint-use projects shall submit a copy of the cooperative agreement between the public library and the public school district, that includes the following elements."

MEMBER ANGELIDES: I now see that. It's on page 60; correct?

MR. HALL: Yes, it probably is.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Well, the one thing, I wanted to point out to Calabasas -- and, by the way, I know that my staff talked to, I believe, the mayor and Speaker Emeritus Hertzberg -- who I respect a lot -- also actually talked to me about this issue, and this is one of those very difficult circumstances.

I think, for me, what makes it difficult -- I respect the view that you would see this as, you know, obviously a fundable project; but I do want to say, and I need to say this to the city, because I'm in a position on my other boards where we have competitive rounds and every applicant is held to the same standard, it's very difficult to say, "Well, you didn't fulfill that requirement; but we're going to stipulate that you did." I think that, for me, the absence of an actual formal

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agreement submitted with the application is frankly something the city could have remedied. It was within your control.

CHAIR STARR: I don't want a response on this, please.

MEMBER ANGELIDES: Secondly -- secondly, the only other thing I'd say is, I think what's substantive -- not form -- is that there's a requirement that there be a 20-year commitment to provide the services stipulated. So the very nature of the substantive requirement is not just that you have a program; but there also be essentially a contractual relationship to maintain it for 20 years, which absent that agreement, we don't have. And so I just want to point out to the city that there is that substantive deficiency. There is no 20-year commitment.

And I don't want to dismiss, frankly, the absence -- it was within the control of the city and the school district, certainly, to enter into it. And that's -- I understand the frustration is certainly a curable frustration for Round 2; and it's just something I would point out to you that it's curable.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Mr. Pachino, please?

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MEMBER PACHINO: Yes, I only have one other comment; and that is, these points are all well taken, and I'm frustrated by form over substance as well. And I do think it does fit into that category. We do have the ability to make policy decisions. And I certainly think we have it within our power to award second-priority projects at this stage, to wit, at our last meeting, we awarded two second-priority projects of state grants. They were second-priority projects for different purposes, but they are just as labeled "second priority" as the others. That's the only comment I have to make. It doesn't require a response.

CHAIR STARR: We're going to go -- we're going to continue on because we've gave Calabasas enough treatment.

But let me just say, as State Librarian, I cannot dismiss requirements in both legislation and in the administrative regulations as "pieces of paper." If they are pieces of paper, they are pieces of paper which every applicant, save one, has seen fit to present.

Now, with that, I'd like to move on. There's one more Calabasas person. I don't want to weigh this too far, and it's not fair to the other people.

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Mr. Gaines -- thank you, Mr. Gaines. Thank you.

You wanted to say something?

MR. GAINES: I just wanted to clarify. We weren't claiming that we were first priority. We're second priority. But what we were claiming is that ask the staff what was said at the meetings about second-priority being able to be funded if they were "outstanding," this is where we got this instruction. We didn't just flaunt that --

CHAIR STARR: No, I understand.

MR. GAINES: -- we don't need this.

We followed what we thought were the procedures. There was discussion specifically about being a second priority, and that's where we came with this.

CHAIR STARR: I understand, sir. I understand.

Yes, there's one more person from Calabasas.

And please, ma'am, be very brief. Not because you're not important but because we have other people who wish to speak.

MS. MEYER: Thank you very much, Dr. Starr.

I'd like to, first of all, begin by saying what an honor it is for me to be here this evening. I am a teacher, first and foremost, former School Board Trustee of

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the Los Virgenes Unified School District, and currently the Chair of the Education Commission of the City of Calabasas.

When I was elected to the school -- I'm sorry, I'm Charlotte Meyer. When I was elected to the school board approximately nine years ago, one of my goals was to establish a very close working relationship between the school district and the city. I wanted to have a school-friendly city council. And the city's response to my efforts has far exceeded my expectations. We have a positive and long-working relationship.

And I'm just going to give you a very quickly a few items that the City has been forthcoming, long before this library grant was ever -- just real quick -- I got up at five o'clock in the morning.

CHAIR STARR: I want you to speak, ma'am; but I just wanted to say one thing.

MS. MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR STARR: All these reasons you're going to give us is why Calabasas received an "outstanding" award, so please be as brief as possible.

MS. MEYER: Okay. The city has been very forthcoming in getting grants for the school district. This is not in

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the memorandum of understanding. This is their policy. This is our culture in our community. They fund the free transportation for students. They have a grant for the STAR Program. They have a Lunch-Bunch Tutoring Program on one of our sites.

When it came time for the school district -- for the city to look into having a library, as a school board trustee, I was invited to participate in the Library Feasibility Committee. When it came time to design the new library, I was part of that process. I was invited. My input was elicited. And some of the things that you see in the grant, were things that came directly from me and from my colleagues in the school district, such as the current ecology career center, with its special education software, so that the library would be accessible to disabled students and senior citizens.

And when I retired from the school board, I was plucked to become the Chair of the Education Commission because the city wanted to create an education commission in order to formalize its relationship with the school district, and keep me involved, because I was a good connection to have.

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I am a teacher, and I know you're impatient.

CHAIR STARR: No, I'm not impatient, ma'am. I'm very empathetic. But I do worry about fairness to the other constituencies here. I'm beginning to be concerned about that.

So would you please summarize?

And let me say, before you summarize, the City of Calabasas is fortunate to have you as a citizen and your time spent getting up at 5:00 in the morning is not wasted; but we have an equity relationship to the other constituencies.

MS. MEYER: Yes. Okay, I'll just conclude -- I will conclude by stating that I am a teacher, and I hope that all of you were very attentive today to everyone from Calabasas who spoke.

And thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, madam. And the city is very fortunate to have you as its advocate.

Sir?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm Calabasas.

CHAIR STARR: No. I think you've made --

(Laughter)

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CHAIR STARR: This isn't to be disrespectful to Calabasas. We're trying to have equity to the other constituencies.

MEMBER PACHINO: Dr. Starr, I want to make one --

CHAIR STARR: Yes, Mr. Pachino, yes, you can, as a Board member.

MEMBER PACHINO: You know, we moved at the last Board meeting to look at Monterey Park, and I believe it was the City of Orange's projects that also had a different type of second priority, and move them after some fairly moving discussion about how difficult it would be to qualify for a first-round funding or other funding, if we took the position we took initially -- that we took initially in the meeting.

And here, I think it's important here, we're bantering about the word "requirement" here, and I think it's a little sloppy.

There is a requirement to have an agreement to be a Priority 1 project; but there is not a requirement under the Act for there to be an agreement for a library to get a grant. And that's what we're talking about here. I feel very strongly that everybody understand that we're

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bantering -- the use of the word "requirement," I think the requirement is a Priority 1.

CHAIR STARR: I think, Mr. Pachino, that's a very good point. But let's hold it because we don't want to prejudice the presentations.

I think what you're saying is going to be very important when we deliberate at the end; but I don't want to prejudice any of our other constituencies as they make their case.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. REED: Chairman Starr and Members of Public Library Construction Board, thank you very much for this opportunity to speak. My name is Donna Reed, and I'm Chairman of the San Leandro Library Commission. I speak for all of the commission, several of whom are here with us today.

I would like briefly to emphasize two points that were on our application that we feel set it apart from some of the others.

First, we took very seriously the provision in the Bond Act for the joint-use agreement. In addition to public meetings, we held numerous meetings with students,

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with teachers, with district staff and with school boards. And we finally came to the conclusion that we were going to need two joint agreements, with two different school districts that met the slightly different requirements that they each had. If this comes about, it would be a truly remarkable example of interagency cooperation.

And our agreement is definitely cooperative, as the two school districts have already committed quite a large number of their resources for this exciting project.

The new Manor Community Branch Library will essentially serve as an after-hours school library. It will be electronically linked to the district offices and to all school sites.

Laptop computers will be available for students to access the district's e-learning project from the branch, and the schools are providing copies of all of the K-through-8th grade textbooks, and a certificated teacher, who will be on-site after school, to work with students at a homework center.

The library is also going to be a site for the community-based English tutoring program that the districts have; and will even provide a shuttle for transportation.

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This van will pick up English learners and their families and bring them to the library. The library will provide story hours for the children, while the parents are in class.

Currently, the San Lorenzo School District does not even have space within the district for this program. They are now meeting out at the district.

San Leandro Library has a long history of extensive cooperation with schools. Our library director is part of the committee of school board and city council members that meet on a regular basis to discuss mutual concerns.

The second item I would like to mention is the condition of our current Manor Branch library. It was surprising to us that this receipt -- that the building condition received a "very good" rather than an "outstanding." Manor Branch was not built as a public facility. It's not even a rundown, outdated public facility. It was -- it is a wood-framed house, built in the 1950's. There is no place to -- you can't attach the stacks to the floor. At the time of conversion, there were no plumbing and electrical upgrades. It is not fully accessible to the disabled, let alone ADA-compliant.

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Reserve books, as a matter of fact, are kept in the old kitchen sink. But I will say, we did turn off the water.

(Laughter)

MS. REED: We tried to upgrade the structure, but architects have told us that, financially, it doesn't make any sense to do this. And in the case of the ADA, it's not physically possible. So the only alternative is a new building.

In spite of its deficiencies, Manor Branch Library is well loved and much used by our residents. It is open six days a week and four evenings a week, more than many main libraries.

The City of San Leandro is committed to maintaining these hours, so your Bond Act money would be put to good work in a library that has already proven itself to being a true center of the community.

We --

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Could you conclude now, ma'am?

Thank you very much.

MS. REED: Uh-huh.

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CHAIR STARR: No, no, please, finish your statement.

MS. REED: I only have -- I don't have all these papers.

(Laughter)

CHAIR STARR: Please.

MS. REED: We've continued to the design process after our application was submitted. We're now beginning the construction drawings, so that we will be able to break ground in 2003, and construction should be finished in about a year.

And when the new library is constructed, it will definitely be proof of what can be done with the bond money, and it's in a highly visible location in the Bay Area.

And I have with me today some letters of support from the two school superintendents.

May I pass those out, or just hand them to someone?

CHAIR STARR: Hand them to Mr. Hall; and I will answer them personally.

MS. REED: Okay.

CHAIR STARR: All letters are logged and answered.

MS. REED: Thank you.

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CHAIR STARR: And we thank you very much for your presentation. Your community is fortunate to have you as a library activist.

MR. HAMMOND: Good afternoon, Chairman Starr, Members of the Board. My name is Robert Hammond. I'm the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Monrovia; and I will keep my comments very brief.

First of all, I was looking through the criteria on the applications. One of them is rural. Monrovia was founded and incorporated in 1887, which makes us one of the oldest cities in the San Gabriel Valley. We are completely built out, so the opportunity to have a rural library is a moot point.

I want to give you just a few statistics, very, very briefly. The Monrovia Library offers the largest in the San Gabriel Valley children's program for the summer. Last year we had over 2,400 children join our club, which was a 13 percent increase over the previous year.

The library's fast running out of space to accommodate the number of children using the library's many services. The library meeting rooms do not always accommodate the

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number of children that are attending the many programs that are offered. Seating and homework space are also extremely limited and there are no study rooms.

The library is packed to capacity in order to implement the public computers, book stacks and seating had to be moved to provide enough space.

The lobby, which was originally designed as a lobby, has turned into a display area that now holds the copiers and printer station, and inside the book drop and the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library.

To add shelving in the adult service area, we had to remove reading tables and a lot, and continue to do so until many -- until many of the seating will be completely turned over to shelving.

As a way just for your edification, the Monrovia Public Library serves two high schools, two middle schools, five elementary schools, which services a total 8,000 school children in the City of Monrovia. It also serves a 54 percent minority population, which is not indicative of our demographics in our city. There is a much higher minority demographic in our school system and in our city.

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Because you will not remember who I am, by the end of everybody else giving them testimony, Monrovia was the guy that had the Christmas tie, okay; just remember that.

(Laughter)

MR. HAMMOND: And I'd like to wish you guys very happy holidays.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor. Thank you, Your Honor, and we'll certainly remember that the mayor of the city took the time to come here and express his commitment to library service for his city.

MR. HAMMOND: I appreciate that. But I would be the Mayor Pro Tem, because the mayor may not like me being the mayor.

(Laughter)

CHAIR STARR: Well, I'm just a mere bureaucrat.

MR. HAMMOND: I appreciate that.

CHAIR STARR: The gradations of elected officials sometimes baffles me.

(Laughter)

MS. ZOOLALIAN: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and staff and committee -- staff and committee. My name is Denise

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Zoolalian. I'm the Library Board President of the Monrovia Public Library. Thank you.

And he said mostly -- Robert said mostly everything that needs to be said, besides what you have in your papers.

One thing that I'm concerned about is that our library is so crowded; in the back, the staff has to go around things, like when people donate books, they're there on the floor, we have no place to put them. And I'm concerned that we may lose some of our good staff. They may get offers from other libraries that will be more ample and where they're in a working situation would be more appropriate for them, in a way. So we really would -- we appreciate all the work you've done, on the first round. We know it's a difficult process. And we will follow -- we've got two "outstanding's", and we will follow your suggestion in our planning on applying for the second round.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much, ma'am.

MS. ZOOLALIAN: Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: And thank you for serving as president of your library board.

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MS. ZOOLALIAN: Thank you. And I think I will see you on January 10th at Cal Tech.

CHAIR STARR: I hope I'll still be welcome there.

(Laughter)

MS. HILL: Dr. Starr, Members of the Board, my name is B.J. Hill. I represent Julian, California, the Julian Joint Venture Public Library. We are concerned about a part of this money in first-round going to rural libraries.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yay.

MS. HILL: A 1,500 square mile library area is what we serve -- 1,500 square miles. And our kids come from those same 1,500 square miles. They are bussed, so no one can walk to a library. Any library services have to be provided during the school day. None of the schools have libraries.

The high school has not had a librarian or library services for 15 years. We are very concerned about our students. One of the criteria that the Bond Act talked about, was -- or our procedures talked about, was the state of the building. And maybe we didn't say it quite right.

Our building is 114 years old. It is an historical building, obviously. It was not in our community. Board

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by board, it was taken down, numbered, labeled at a nearby community, and brought up, so that our community could have some semblance of library services.

It is not ADA-complaint; and our county librarian says that we look forward to having it shut down.

We are 60 miles from a major library in San Diego. When our kids have a science fair, they have to be bussed three hours down, two hours at the county library -- or the city library, and bussed back. And that's what they get to provide for their science projects.

We urge you to look at the rural nature of some of this money. The major money went to big libraries, city libraries, and we're out there. We have no government, we have no industry, and we have raised 1.6 million dollars in the 11 years that we've been trying to get this building put together.

Please consider the rural nature and our request of Julian.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you so much.

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MR. CIBULA: Good afternoon. My name is Mark Cibula, and I am the Mayor of the City of Redding. I am here to speak on behalf of the Shasta County Library.

Before I commence, however, I did want to thank all of you and your staff for your civic dedication and for taking the extra time to consider all of these very important applications.

I feel very honored to be here today to speak on behalf of the community. And I feel I say that with confidence, in that this has been a truly community effort. We have had numerous workshops, as well as hearings at the supervisorial and city council level, to take as much public input on this project, both in the design and the nature of the library as possible.

It is also a three-part -- on a more formal basis, a three-part cooperation between the city, the county and a citizen's organization which has raised millions of dollars, which you will hear from later.

Now, the City, of course, is not just lent its oral support; but it has committed the equivalent of approximately 2,650,000 dollars, in addition to increasing its amount of 250,000 to be ongoing support of what is now

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Shasta County Library. The location is also critical. And I'll speak briefly on the amount of micro level and then on the larger scale of the location.

On a more micro level, it is located right next to a brand-new city hall. It is located next to a major redevelopment project, in which we are working with affordable housing, as well as revitalization of an entire neighborhood. And it is located very close to a number of schools, which will service a number of schools, included within walking distance of two elementary schools.

In the bigger picture, of course, Redding, although it's beginning to increase in size, still remains in a largely rural area. And this will service an enormous geographical segment of California. And because it's in a little bit more of a rural area, we do not have access to as many other informational sources as, say, in the urban -- the more urban environments. So it is very critical on that aspect.

There are a number of speakers from my community, and I do not wish to be redundant. So I will end

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there -- end here, with the exception I would like to say that, of course, I echo the comments of Dr. Starr, and I agree with those. And I also wanted to point out that there are a number of leaders of our community that are here, although they will not all be speaking, in an effort to be brief and to the point.

And, again, I wish to thank you for your ongoing consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. FUST: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, my name is Irwin Fust. I'm a member of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors. And I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to come before you in support of the Redding/Shasta County Library.

As you heard from the mayor, we have a large group of people working for this project and in great support of this project.

The present Shasta County Main Library was built in 1962. It was renovated in 1975. The library was actually closed briefly in the late eighties; and that is an era we have vowed never to return to.

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The proposed library, which would be built with this grant, will house the county's main collection and the county library administration.

I should point out that the shortcomings of our present facility are painfully obvious to anyone who uses the building.

The building, when it was built, was designed to serve a community of just over 20,000 population; and now it provides services to more than 130,000.

The building, because of its location and configuration, cannot be expanded. It is without a vital meeting room, since the existing room is no longer usable by the public because of Americans with Disability Act requirements.

The current collection is inadequate for the City of Redding, let alone the entire county. And we have no room to expand it. Access to the building is difficult for the mobility-impaired due to the steep grade of the site, and a layout that didn't anticipate wheelchairs or other devices.

The electrical system is old and in constant need of repair. And we have a problem with ground water infiltration in the basement area. The last time this

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building received extensive renovations, personal computers were just starting to come to the marketplace. An entire generation of children and youth growing up in the north state have no access to a quality library facility and modern library services.

As a county and as a community, we want to provide that access.

And I might mention that as evidence of support, we have received the full endorsement of the North State Cooperative Library System Council, which represents libraries in the 11 northern counties of Northern California.

Shasta County finds itself in the difficult situation of providing library services to our population centers and to a widespread rural county as well, providing library services in urban and rural settings is neither an easy, nor an inexpensive task. However, the regulations for this grant spurred area school districts, the county office of education and the Shasta County Library, to begin developing an innovative method of sharing books throughout the entire county. Using the county office of education's existing delivery system and

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enlisting the support of rural schools, the library plans to establish satellites, or mini branches, as school libraries.

Although these will only be open a few hours a week, the presence of an online public access computer will give outlying residents access to the county's entire collection. We anticipate orders being placed and books being ordered and picked up once a week in these locations.

This is a service we hope to have available to all residents, not just students.

Our joint venture project with the Shasta Union High School District is the first step in this plan. We hope that our successful program can be used as a model by other rural counties.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have lived in Shasta County for the past 30 years; and I've served as the County Supervisor for the past ten years. And I can assure you firsthand that the need for a new library has never been greater and the support has never been more widespread. We're very proud of our fundraising efforts and the plan for our new library. It would be the gem of our entire county.

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We urge you to support our grant so that we may partner with the State in bringing a new modern library facility to our community.

And I thank you very much for letting me speak.

I'd like to turn this over to Mr. David Kehoe, who is the chairman of our board of supervisors.

And thank you, and merry Christmas.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Supervisor.

MR. KEHOE: Thank you, Mr. Fust.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Starr. I thank you for the courtesy extended to my colleagues, Mayor Cibula and Supervisor Fust. As Supervisor Fust has indicated, I'm David Kehoe, Chairman of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors.

And this afternoon, in deference to your time and patience, I'm going to abbreviate my remarks.

We believe strongly that the award of this grant will give the biggest bang for the fewest dollars. For example, of the grants funded to date, the average for new construction cost was 246 dollars per square foot. The average in the "very good" category is 275 dollars per square foot. The average of the "outstanding" category is

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248 dollars per square foot; and the average request of all new construction projects is 270 dollars per square foot.

Our request is 210 dollars per square foot. We have worked very hard to make every dollar count in this effort, to attain the grant. But the dollars are not necessarily the most important factor. We are in a rural area and have not had adequate library services, even though the three cities in our county have grown 475 percent since 1975.

We are one of, if not the only library grant application that is a city and a county partnership, both in terms of capital costs and operating costs. And we are working together and partner financially with the county, providing almost two million dollars and the City of Redding providing two and a half million dollars, including land toward the building costs.

Most importantly, we are likely the only library grant application to have almost 25 percent of the capital costs donated by our citizens: 700 individuals, groups, and businesses throughout Shasta County. The new library will serve three cities, as well as the county; and unlike many

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of the applications, this will be the only significant library for our entire county.

There are no other real alternatives, other than the library we are hoping to build. We'll serve virtually all of the cities and the county, with the next closest major public library being more than an hour away.

The building and the plan for the new library has no opposition, and is overwhelmingly supported in Shasta County. We hope that you will see the value of investing in our community and partnering with our city, county, and the citizens, in making this dream a reality.

I thank you on behalf of the Redding City Council, Shasta County Board of Supervisors for your consideration.

We appreciate the difficult task that this Board faces because the library needs, in our great state, are so great.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Supervisor.

MS. McARTHUR EMMERSON: Hi. I'm Missy McArthur Emmerson, also from Redding.

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As a lifelong Shasta County resident, I can verify the facts that my colleagues have presented to you today. The north state is in great need of library services.

A simple example is that when the Gates Foundation provided our library with computer funding, due to lack of space for the computer stations, we couldn't use all of the money and had to send some of it back.

Also, when we were awarded 13,000 dollars by the State Library -- thank you, Dr. Starr -- to develop our library foundation, we also had to return that, due to lack of library staff for implementation.

I represent the citizens responsible for raising our eight million dollars that is the community match. Do you know how impressive that is for a rural area? Four million dollars, representing almost 25 percent of our project's costs came from our citizens alone. My husband's company has pledged one half million dollars. Do you know what I had to do to get that pledge?

(Laughter)

MS. McARTHUR EMMERSON: You can bet I want him to pony up, when we get your approval.

(Laughter)

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MS. McARTHUR EMMERSON: Imagine water cooler jugs, imagine them placed throughout Shasta County schools. Imagine children putting their pennies, nickels and dimes into the jars for the new library. Imagine the children realizing their dream, and walking with their grandparents into the new library.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.

MR. LA MALFA: Good afternoon. My name is Doug La Malfa. I'm the Assembly Member from the Second District up there. Thank you for allowing me to speak today, to Dr. Starr and the whole Board. I appreciate the opportunity.

The district I represent is very large. It stretches from just 12 miles north of here, all the way to the Oregon border and over to the Nevada border. That's important, in that it illustrates the rural aspects of this district and of the area that we serve.

I personally live in the southern part of the district. So having gotten to know the people up there in the Shasta area and see the dedication that they have to this project, I'm very impressed by it. I would sure like to see this Board reward that dedication to that.

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I think it would be very well served, the dollars expended for that.

I think this new project would be the cornerstone for the education and learning opportunity for students and for the historical aspects, seniors and the very large veterans population that lives in the Shasta area would be able to take advantage of as well.

I think that with the makeup of the district there that, as alluded to before so well by the folks that spoke before me, Dr. Starr, it would be a halo effect for a lot of the region up there, not just Shasta County and Redding, but Trinity, Tehama, Siskiyou and Modoc. They could all use us as a resource because there wouldn't be anything like that in the area. It would require a great deal of travel further south in this state or even going up into Oregon, for folks to find some of these same resources that a dynamic new project like this could do. So I strongly urge you support for this and I thank you for your time.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Assemblyman.

MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, Members of the Board.

I am Cyr Miller, Member of the City Council of

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San Rafael. I serve the Canal neighborhood, ran this most densely populated area that teams with the rich diversity of races, cultures, ages, economic background, housing, businesses and industries.

The Pickleweed Library is part of a community-directed expansion of the neighborhood center at Pickleweed Park, that serves as the front yard and back yard of the neighborhoods, apartment buildings and other multi-unit rental housing. A special place where children play and learn and residents gather.

The community's expressed priority to help children succeed in school is at the heart of our grant submittal. Our proposal for the Pickleweed Library describes our intent to provide our children, youth and families with a computer lab, a homework center, and an enhanced family literacy program.

The library will be an expansion of a very successful learning center that we proudly describe as "one small, but mighty room." Imagine the impact of our little library with the added space and services.

Pickleweed Library goes beyond family, children and schools, to the very soul of our community. I would like

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to speak to you the sentiments of our community that I am most privileged to represent. Give us light to show the way. Give us literacy so we can seek our destiny. Give us learning, so that we can know our past, understand our present and act towards our future. Give us our library at Pickleweed neighborhood center, where we, the people of the Canal, unite with public, private, and civil sectors to improve ourselves in every way and celebrate our lives.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Councilman.

MR. SANNWALD: Chairperson Dr. Starr and Members of the Board, I'm Bill Sannwald. I was formerly the city librarian for San Diego for 13 years. Currently, I'm an assistant to the city manager, for the city.

The city, as you know, has three projects that we've submitted, and we hope to submit some more for the second and third round. But I'd like to talk about our Logan Heights Library today. Logan Heights is a project, I think, that meets all the criteria that you have. It's located on a school site. The City of San Diego has entered into an agreement with the San Diego Unified School District for 50 years, to be on that site. The site is

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adjacent to a middle school and to an elementary school. It's within about a mile and a half of eight other public schools, seven preschools, a charter school and a parochial school. We work very closely with the community, and especially with the school district to get our joint use agreement.

Let me tell you some things about the joint use agreement. We're going to have a computer lab with 35 computers, where the staff from the schools are helping us select the materials that will be in these schools.

We're going to have a joint teacher from the school and one of our library assistants work together to help the kids with their homework, both in the computer center, as well as a 12-computer homework center.

We have a homework hotline, with a phone dedicated for school and student access in the classroom. The school will have priority for all of the meeting rooms with the library.

We have a cultural center for the community, seating 350 people, because the community said that they needed this place as a place that would be a cultural catalyst for the community.

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There's a teacher resource collection of books and materials.

So we have a very strong agreement with the San Diego Unified School District.

A couple of other things I want to talk about. One is commitment to library service. The City of San Diego, Dick Murphy and especially Council Member Jim Madaffer, have taken the library on as one of their goals. In fact, the mayor had ten new goals that he set for himself when he was elected to office. And the library was one of those goals. And the city has committed to building 18 libraries over the next ten years, with a combination of city bonds, public funding from other sources -- and we hope this grant will be one of them -- as well as private donations. The largest donation ever given to the San Diego Foundation, eighty million dollars, was given to build -- the interest will build the library in Point Lomo, which is 50 percent under construction, as well as a library in a very disadvantaged area of the city. So the city is there with their commitment.

During the last two years, the city has increased the library's budget by five million dollars each year. And

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they have a commitment to be a percentage of the city budget within the next two years. And we expect, unless the bottom falls out, to have those increases in the next two years in operating funds.

This library, Logan Heights, is really needed. It's a community that is heavily Mexican-American, a community that does not have a lot of resources involved, and the meeting rooms, the computer labs and everything else will do it.

The other thing I'd like to do is, I'd like to commend your staff, Dr. Starr. We've worked very closely with Richard Hall. And I've put on workshops for the American Library Association around the country. Richard Hall is recognized and respected as one of the real experts in library buildings all over the United States. And every time I go and talked them, and talk about the Libris Program, that you have so generously funded with your scarce resources, people are just excited about what is happening here in California. And I just want to say that every time we've needed help, your staff has been great.

If I could take another minute, the City of San Diego, in my spare time, has contracted me out to the City of La

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Mesa. We have a representative here from the City of La Mesa; and she asked me if I would say a couple of things for her. I help them with their needs assessment and financial service and their building program.

La Mesa is an interesting community. It's an old community. It's east of San Diego. And one of the things in that community is there's a great desire and need for educational programs. And I know that Carol McLaughlin, who is here in the audience, and I went out and met with people at the two high schools and two middle schools that are served by the library. We went to focus groups that average about 20 people each, getting their ideas and what they'd like to see in a library. We met extensively. We must have had a dozen community meetings with other people in the community; and the library that we have planned for La Mesa is very much in line with what the school people have suggested, as well as the community people.

There's a nice arts center, there's a nice performing arts center for local people, and it's a great project as well.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Sannwald.

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Just for the Board's information, the Libris Program that Mr. Sannwald referred to, is a program designed by Richard Hall and staff at the State Library that moves you through all the multiple decisions and items it takes to plan a library. So it's an effort on our part to level the playing field, in terms of smaller constituencies, especially that can't afford consultants, et cetera. So it's a remarkable program that's been funded by the Library Services and Technology Act.

Yes, sir?

MR. ROBERTS: Good afternoon. My name is Ron Roberts. I'm the Mayor of the City of Temecula. The City of Temecula has been working for over six years on the proposed Temecula Public Library. I was going to comment on the strong support for this library from our community, and the thousands of letters, calls, faxes and e-mails that have been sent to all of you. But after hearing that all your letters are logged and answered, I feel kind of like I shouldn't bring it up.

(Laughter)

CHAIR STARR: We've just got a stack this morning about this big [indicating] from Temecula.

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I'm very charmed by the students writing. It's very wonderful to hear their point of view, and it really speaks well for your school system there.

MR. ROBERTS: We have Friends of the Library that are very, very active. I know that the chamber is involved. You'll probably get them from a lot of civic groups. They're still coming.

Anyway, I'll make this very brief. I've got this down to about half, because I am elected, and I understand how it is up there. I'm normally up there myself.

CHAIR STARR: I'm not elected, and I don't think I ever will be. But --

(Laughter)

MR. ROBERTS: Anyway, we knew that the Library Bond Act criteria, approved by the voters of California, made population growth one of the critical factors in determining who would be funded. And I can tell you that Temecula, with a population growth of more than 4,500 percent and a school enrollment growth exceeding 3,700 percent is an overwhelming need for library services.

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When population growth is considered, along with the other four factors that the staff evaluated, Temecula's application, I think, would be rated "outstanding."

The new proposed Temecula Library is a joint-use facility, geographically centered on the same parcel of land as the community recreation center, our teen center, and sports park complex. The site embodies everything that is special about a community. The new library's directly adjacent to a public and a private high school, two elementary schools, and a residential neighborhood.

Finally, I would also like to touch briefly on the other Bond Act factor, that is not factored into the staff ranking of "outstanding" or "very good." That is a requirement that the Board consider the needs of urban and rural areas. Most of the libraries funded so far are in urban areas. They were funded based on the staff ranking of the four factors. Several counties were funded for more than one library. Temecula is in the transition from a rural, to a residential community. If Temecula were funded, it would be the only application funded in all of Riverside County, probably the fastest growing county in California.

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It's a beautiful country, community. It's a supported library that you and other Members of the Board will be proud to point to as a model in advocating for the future Library Bond Act.

We urge you to consider all seven factors and approve Temecula's outstanding application.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. TOOKER: Chairman Starr, I'm glad you're charmed by the letters. I'm bringing another stack for you.

I'm going to start out, before I introduce myself, with a letter.

"What the library means to me.

"It's a place where people --

CHAIR STARR: Ma'am, would you identify yourself and what library you're representing? I suspect it's Temecula.

MS. TOOKER: Yes. May I do that after I read this letter?

CHAIR STARR: Yes, please.

MS. TOOKER: Okay, thank you.

"It's a place where people can go somewhere if they need help. People can go somewhere new finally and then

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check out a book that you can trace if they want to be an artist. All the people around us are going to the library, and one other person comes and there's no other parking places. What are they going to do? There is no other library. The people that live in our state care about everything that we have; so I'm saying, 'Please help us get a new library.' You don't have to change the people who work there" --

(Laughter)

MS. TOOKER: -- "but just please help us get a new library."

"Thank you for reading this."

"Jane Gonzalez, third grader."

My name is Barbara Tooker. I'm outgoing president of Temecula Valley Unified School District Governing Board.

And I am, too, charmed by what happened here as a result of the library project, the grant application that the city submitted, and that was that our kids got a great civic lesson. They learned about the library and what the importance of the library was to them and to their family. And I'm going to leave these. And I hope that you can use

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it in other ways because they're wonderful stories about the library.

Temecula has 19 schools, which is only halfway to its build-out. And we're concerned, as a school district, about the fact that the Legislative Analyst has just recommended that school library funds for library materials be cut as a way of helping to mitigate the state budget crisis.

We're doing everything we can in our community to backfill where we need to. And we're going to do that because we're a community full of readers.

And I think that what I'd like to tell you is that having an MLS and having been a part of the work in other states, I see what has happened here in terms of the need in the State of California for libraries. I realize that there is only a very slim, optimistic chance that Temecula may be funded in the first round. However, there are other rounds coming up. I wish there weren't rounds. I wish you could dump all of that money out on the street for all of the Jane Gonzaleses of the world and get that out right now.

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We've learned a lot, and we appreciate having gone through this opportunity. And we are going to do our best to make sure that our applications meet the criteria and that we define that very well.

We're going to be around. And we do have need with our population growth and with our joint project mindset in the city to make sure that we're back and that we're here for a second round.

We will be taking a look at all of that joint-use agreement because we've had it in place for many years. We want to commend some of the other speakers here who have talked about joint-use agreements.

The City of Temecula has joint-use agreements on all of our school facility sites. So this is nothing new to us. And we will continue to work on the joint-use agreement and make sure that we're using our public facilities and our monies wisely.

So thank you very much. And we'll be back.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MS. TOOKER: I'm not leaving.

(Laughter)

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CHAIR STARR: I wouldn't resign myself to having to come back a second round. The way this Board behaves, just stick around, who knows what's going to happen?

(Laughter)

MS. TOOKER: I'll stick around. I'll pass these down.

CHAIR STARR: Senator?

MEMBER ALPERT: And if I could just add one thing to that comment as well, is the fact that both Assemblywoman Corbett and I are both going to be introducing a library bond measure; so that even after a second round and a third round, we will try and get on the ballot something that will mean that, down the road, there will be additional rounds that can assist libraries throughout California.

(Applause)

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MR. CLABBY: Thank you, Dr. Starr, Board Members. I'm Thomas Clabby, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Lemon Grove.

Our request is rather unique, in that based upon the criteria, we do not have a library. So our proposal was built on the fact that we need a library, and that we are totally surrounded -- La Mesa, San Diego, El Cajon and the county. We're 4.3 square miles, 25,000 residents. And we

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have a collaboration agreement with our school district that is bar none, to the fact that we even shared the purchase of gasoline for school trucks and buses and the city buses. We have a common telephone system. We also have probably one of the most unique technological advances in the entire state, and I am very proud to say it's referred to as "Lemon Link."

It has been reviewed by Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, and various other technological organizations throughout the United States. It is a system whereby all of the schools are interlinked with microwave transmission systems, and all of the schools can get on the same page with their computer studies. Each classroom in the school has 12 computer-study stations; and we intend to provide the same type of situation in our library.

The school district has agreed to a collaboration agreement, which is in our proposal. And we feel very fortunate that this Bond Act was passed. We worked very hard for that. And we believe that we submitted a dynamite proposal. We're next to public transportation. We have trolleys and buses that are right adjacent to us.

I've been told that in a school district, we have

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27 different dialects that are spoken in the school.
That's hard for me to believe. I can't even think of
27 different dialects. But I'm glad to be here, and I'm
sure you're glad to see me for two reasons. One, I'm
almost at the end of the line; and two, I thank you for
your patience.

And, again, we do not have a library; and we feel very
strongly that our proposal deserves second recognition.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Sir, we're also very glad to see you
because elected officials are the first line of creation
for libraries. It's elected officials that apportion the
money and who appoint the authorities that back our public
systems. And thank you for being here.

MR. CLABBY: Again, thank you.

MS. PUTNAM: Good afternoon. I'm Rosemary Putnam.
And I, too, am from Lemon Grove.

I was at this meeting two weeks ago with my heart in
my hands; and here I am, back again today, counting the
beats, waiting for this meeting to come out like I want it
to.

(Laughter)

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MS. PUTNAM: Lemon Grove is a very extraordinary place. We have a school system relationship with the city that no one else has.

I'm sure you have read all of our numbers and looked at our pictures that we sent. But I wanted to bring up again about our friend, Bill Gates, who uses Lemon Grove as an example of the way school districts and libraries should operate. And we are his model.

So I really wanted to be last in line, so I could leave you with the thought of, "Remember Lemon Grove."

(Laughter)

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am.

MS. WOOD: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, Members of the Board. My name is Linda Wood. I'm the county librarian in Alameda County. And I'm here to speak on behalf of the Castro Valley Library Project, which is a branch of the Alameda County Library system.

When I spoke with you at your last meeting, I pointed out how conveniently this new library project is located to our BART station, to all the bus lines that serve Castro Valley, and the fact that it's considered the keystone of

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the redevelopment project area in our aging, somewhat rundown downtown -- "downtown," in quotes -- Castro Valley.

Castro Valley is not inner-city but it's inner suburb. It's an older suburb that began to be developed to go from rural to urban, suburban after World War II.

So today I'm not going to tell you all those things all over again in any depth. I want to focus more on what's wrong with our existing building and why the new project is so needed in Castro Valley.

We have a population that's nearing 60,000 people. And we're trying to serve them out of the 10,000-square-foot building that's more than 40 years old.

When we have a children's program, we typically attract a hundred kids, at least. And we don't have a program in the meeting room because the meeting room has a theoretical capacity of 35. So the only place we can have those programs for kids is right out on the floor of the library. While it's great to have programs for kids, and we're delighted to do that, but it means anyone else trying to use the library while we're having a program, finds it a little bit challenging.

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And our little meeting room is theoretically holding 35 people. If I've seen 20 people in there, they're elbow to elbow, and it's just packed; because around the edges of that room are boxes of books, donated constantly, that our Friends of the Library are storing before they take them out twice a week to their storage facility off-site. They can't come every day, so they pile up. We have boxes of tax forms piled up. And throughout the building, inadequate seating, staff is working elbow to elbow in the work rooms. The carts of books waiting to be shelved, they're right out on the public floor, in front of the entryway. It is so overcrowded that it's difficult to use, and people are telling us they're not even wanting to come because it's so crowded. But they desperately want to use libraries, so they do, anyway.

An example of another problem, our parking lot, only 32 spaces. Now, how do you accommodate a program for 100 kids, when you only have 32 spaces? We're fortunate the church across the street allows our users to park there. But it creates a dangerous and hazardous situation for people crossing to the library.

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Just this summer, a young man, 14 years of age, went back to the parking lot to get a video to return. He had come to the library with his mom and younger siblings for a children's program. He was hit in the street and injured. An ambulance had to be called. It was pretty disruptive to the children's program to have this going on -- all because of inadequate parking.

Our new project is designed to rectify all these problems. It provides a facility four times as large as the current one, with adequate parking, close to the heart of downtown Castro Valley. It includes a multi-purpose education center, which will allow even an enhancement of our existing collaboration with our school district.

Another thing that goes on in that tiny 35-person capacity meeting room, with those boxes of books and tax forms around the edges, is our after-school homework center, which is a current collaborative project with our school district. And we intend to expand in our new facility, when space is available.

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So as you look at all these projects, the need is great. And we know you don't have funding for all of them, but we encourage you to take a good, hard look.

And we thank you for your commitment to do the best you can for the people of California.

And also, Senator Alpert and Assemblywoman Corbett, thank you for your commitment about a new Bond Act.

Of course, all of us hope we don't have to wait that long.

(Laughter)

MS. WOOD: But I know it's going to be very tough for you in your decision-making, and we appreciate your consideration with all the good applications.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much.

MS. HILDRETH: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Board Members. I'm Susan Hildreth, City Librarian for the San Francisco Public Library.

And we've had very serious and emotional testimony here. I really respect and appreciate it all; but I wanted to be lighthearted for a minute. When Dr. Starr made his recommendation about Excelsior Branch, I knew what it felt like to be Queen for a Day.

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(Laughter)

MS. HILDRETH: It was a great experience out there in the audience.

But seriously, I'd like to support his recommendation of the Excelsior Branch Library renovation.

You know, I think many people think of San Francisco as Fisherman's Wharf, Embarcadero, Civic Center. But we really are a community of neighborhoods. And the Excelsior neighborhood is unique, in that it is one of our lowest-income neighborhoods in San Francisco. It has one of the highest rates of home ownership, which is now becoming almost an unachievable goal for many San Franciscans. We have the largest percentage of children in the Excelsior neighborhood, and it is an extremely diverse neighborhood, with many Chinese, Spanish, and also the major Filipino community in San Francisco is located in Excelsior.

So I would just like to encourage you to consider this project seriously. It is a renovation of an urban branch. I think it's important to show that as a priority. The branch is in very poor shape electronically. And I think a highlight is that our staff recently voted among themselves

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to give up the oven in their staff room, so that we could hook up an extra PC for the public. So we have a dedicated staff that wants to move forward in this project; and we hope we can do that.

Just a couple quick reminders. San Francisco County passed Prop. 14 at the highest level of approval in the entire state, 77.3 percent. The Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library gave the largest single gift to the Bond campaign, 30,000 dollars. And our community is committed and the Friends and Foundation are committed to the matching share for the furniture, fixtures and equipment for Excelsior.

Excelsior is a seven-day branch and it will continue to operate as such after the renovation. So we would just encourage your consideration.

I know you have a difficult job, and I appreciate your support for libraries in California.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mrs. Hildreth.

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MR. KING: Good day, Dr. Starr, Board Members, Construction staff and attendees. My name is Richard King. I'm a consultant.

But I am responsible for 13 library projects currently under design and in construction. So we do have some credibility, I hope.

I wish to speak on one issue: The review process equity. It appears to me that this body is tasked to provide an oversight equity not found in the review ranking.

It appears, to this observer, that service area need and size, each and all have been reviewed, without the balance we had hoped for. This is not to say that staff was in error, but to know that they are American. Not a single project under 15,000 square feet was noted as "outstanding." Is that possible? I think not.

A large home or SUV is more popular than a small home or small car.

The oversight and balance we were speaking to would acknowledge that the need might be greatest for a small branch, meeting those needs in an equal or greater way than a large branch or a main library.

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Libraries in small rural communities are like a kitchen table in most homes. They serve as homework center, tutoring, mentoring places, reading, gathering, and community centers. In large homes and libraries, I put to you that, on balance, the reading and literacy improvement is not increased on as high a basis as in a flexible multi-purpose, small, rural library.

No, there are not as many single-purpose use programs spaces, so they were not ranked as highly. But I submit to you, that you do provide a higher efficiency of reading improvement and literacy with the dollars spent on a small branch library.

Just as in the SUV, it is popular today, they are big and popular. They cost a lot and have ten cup holders. But the Toyota Corolla costs less to buy, to operate, and provides more efficient use of your transportation dollar.

Ours is not to say which is better, which is why I speak to equity; but to offer small, rural communities, libraries, an equitable review as a most effective use of our tax dollars under your discretion today.

I'm here to support the Julian project, specifically. Those kids in that community now need to travel an hour to

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get to the nearest library that has the breadth of collection to do their homework. Its service area is large, twelve to fifteen hundred square miles.

Unlike the "outstanding" funded projects, the community, the school district and the county library are true partners. The school district donated the land, a substantial investment for that community and that school district.

I urge an equitable review for small, rural libraries and your support of the Julian project.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir, for a very thought-provoking presentation.

MS. CROUCH: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. I'm Marilyn Crouch. And I'm the Library Director for the San Diego County Library. And I'm here today to urge your support also for the Julian project, a new library in Julian.

Julian is an isolated and rural community in San Diego County. It's not a wealthy community. Julian's modest economy is transitioning from agriculture and ranching, to being based almost entirely on tourism.

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Julian was badly hit by the pines fire last summer. Despite this natural disaster, the community and the school districts, both the elementary and the high school district, continued in their support and drive to find the resources for the match for a badly-needed new library in Julian.

The current Julian library is just 270 square feet. It was built in 1888. It is actually an historic schoolhouse. It fails all Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Because of its historic status, it cannot be expanded or renovated. And as the previous speaker said, if funds are not found to build a replacement library, the Julian Library will be closed.

The community and both school districts have committed their resources and have written many letters of support.

The very first consideration listed in the Bond Act is for the needs of urban and rural communities. But no rural libraries have been funded to date.

We're asking for just a small amount of money, just 2.4 million dollars. But it will have a huge payoff and make a tremendous difference to the residents of Julian and

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to the kids of Julian. This will be the only library in that community, in the entire service area.

I urge your support of the rural Julian library.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Ms. Crouch.

MS. WOLK: Good afternoon, I'm Lois Wolk. I'm an Assembly Member for the Eighth Assembly District in Solano County. I'm here today to speak in support of the Fairfield Cordelia proposal for Solano County.

The California story over the next two to three years, we know, will be one how to leverage as many local resources and partnerships as we can. This proposal does that.

This library will be a true community center, in an area that has none, it has none, and has experienced and will experience tremendous growth. Over 900 percent is expected. This is a community center that will provide, through its extended hours, the ability to meet many, many needs, from the Solano Community College level, to preschool, to K-12, adult education -- the full range.

Due to its proximity to transit, it will be very much accessible. It will become a true community center.

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Lastly, this library -- this branch is ready to go, and it is a reasonable cost.

Thank you for the two hours of testimony.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Assembly Member.

MR. LANTSBERGER: Good afternoon, Dr. Starr, Members of the panel, members of the audience, and staff.

My name is Steve Lantsberger. I am from the City of Hesperia. And I think I am the last speaker, so I'll keep it very brief.

I'm not elected. I'm a staff person that was charged with putting together the City of Heperia's application for Bond Act funding.

I'm not going to recount all of our application high-points; I'm just going to say that we are rural, we are in the high desert. For those of you who don't know where Hesperia is, we're along Interstate 15.

If you look at Hesperia's geographic distribution, based upon the other applications under the "very good" category, where we fall, we would be the only application within about 17 counties east of Highway 99, between

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Highway 99 east and the Nevada border. So we ask you to think about geographic distribution for these funds.

We, too, are asking for a small amount of money, a modest 4 million dollars to build a library that currently exists next to a smoke shop. We'd like to get the kids away from that kind of environment, to build a new library as part of a civic complex. And last but not least, to make sure Hesperia was at least recognized today as a potential player to funding. And that would be the goal of our state, to at least get consideration of our request. If we're not successful today, we'll be back next round.

And I thank you for your time.

Have a good Christmas.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

And I think you make a very dramatic point, that this is the only application out of the 17-county region.

With that, we conclude the public testimony.

We will take a five-minute break, and then reconvene.